

John F. Germain, KA3JAL Treas.  
2731 Ascot Drive  
Florence, South Carolina 29501  
Telephone: (843) 667-9702

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## The FARC QSO

FARC QSO is published monthly by the Florence Amateur Radio Club to provide information to its club members, to all persons interested in wireless communication, and to encourage the promotion of amateur radio in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina.

The editorial staff reserves the right to edit and rewrite for content and space. Deadline for all articles is the 15th of the month.

The editor welcomes your suggestions and comments about this or future publications.

Suzanne Cullom, KG4YVJ, Editor  
1907 Effie's Lane, Florence, SC 29505  
(843) 662-0421  
e-mail: [fcullom@worldnet.att.net](mailto:fcullom@worldnet.att.net)

Florence Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 5062, Florence, SC 29502  
Web site: [www.w4ulh.org](http://www.w4ulh.org)

President - Bob Austin K7DVB  
Vice President - Dave Jones KM4D  
Sect/Treas - John Germain KA3JAL  
Web Page - Lloyd Mitchell, KO4L  
Publicity - Jack Jackson, N4JJ  
Proof Reader - John Germain KA3JAL  
ARES -

Annual Dues at \$36, plus \$14 repeater fund,  
payable on or before January 1 of each  
year.

FARC nets meet each week on  
Monday 8:30 pm on 146.850- and  
Wednesday at 8:30 pm on or about 28.330

## The FARC

# QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



At 7:30 PM, our President, K7DVB, Bob Austin opened the meeting. After the standard introductions, KA3JAL, John Germain gave the Treasurer's Report.

Began October with	\$	785.40
'85 Phone	-	36.25
'97 Phone 4th qtr	-	32.88
SERA dues 3 Rptrs	-	20.00
Ended October with	\$	696.27

The repeater account remains at \$2,579.18.

In the absence of N4JJ, Jack Jackson, KM4D, Dave Jones, told us that Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC has reconsidered and will not be retiring in January. We are all very happy that he will be with us at least a little longer. Also the Myrtle Beach Hamfest will be held on Saturday, November 10.

We still do not have an EC for Florence County. KG4BZK, Bobby Collins is no longer able to serve because he would not be available during any true emergency since he is the only engineer still working at his plant and would need to handle his job during any emergency situation.

W4YLX, Rudolph Hatcher, reported that the 85 repeater is working well but there has been some kerchunking off and on during the last few days.

W4PFZ, Olin McDaniel, reported that the 97 is fine. He had no news about W4GEY, Jim Starling who is

the 97 Trustee. It seems that the Chesterfield Lumber Company has been sold. Maybe Jim will retire now.

Remember, next month's meeting will be held at N4JJ's QTH.

Under old business the committee setting up future quarterly informational sessions has decided that they would be more effective if conducted at a time and place other than at meetings. Since the Red Cross and Bell South buildings are no longer available for our use, we will probably start with a session sometime in January at the Forestry location. Details will be available at the next meeting.

We have been approached by WD4ASW, Barry Baines for help with a project. Barry is retired from CSX Railroad and is trying to find a site in the Florence area to place a computer to act as an Advanced Train Control System (ATCS) server. The only requirements would be some climate controlled space within 5 to 10 miles from the CSX mainline, 24/7 internet access and willingness to have a 900 MHz antenna mounted externally to the house. If you would like more information you can look at the website [www.actsmom.com](http://www.actsmom.com) or contact N4JJ.



Meeting at N4JJ's  
7:30 PM on the 4th.

We were advised of the death of Ruth Jones, wife of NM4R, Morris Jones. We observed a moment of silence in her honor and all members present signed a condolence card.

N4MXP, Mark Davis, reported that he had been in contact with the Red Cross about our use of their facility as a site for VE Testing. It seems that since 9/11, the Red Cross has been tightening its rules and now requires that all volunteers submit to a background check which can include financial information as well as the standard criminal background investigation. We will be allowed to have our testing session tomorrow evening but in the future we need to have submit to their volunteer requirements. A long discussion followed with most members not willing to submit to such checks. The ARRL is very displeased with the new rules and may rescind the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations. This is something over which we as individuals or as a club have very little control and we will have to watch what the future holds.

The nominating committee for next year's club officers reported that they are about half complete and will have a full slate of officers ready for election at the December meeting.

KA3JAL reported that the collection of dues was greatly enhanced last year when we instituted early dues payments. All dues paid before January 1 would get a \$5 discount. Dues paid before January 31, would pay the normal amount. During February there would be an extra charge of \$5 and during March an extra charge of \$10. Any member not renewing before April 1 would be dropped from membership. John requested that this payment schedule become permanent. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned by 8:15 pm.



### Our Scholarship Is A Reality



Scholarship Fund

**\$8,258.00** Semester.

We want to thank all of the FARC members who have contributed to the scholarship at Florence Darlington Technical College. As you can see, as of November 15th, we have \$8,258 in our endowment. This means that our scholarship will be granted to a deserving Electronics Engineering Technology student as soon as the Spring

We are especially grateful for the anonymous donors who matched our donations dollar for dollar. Without that help, it would have taken us quite a bit longer to reach our goal. Please remember that we can still contribute to the Scholarship Fund. If we reach \$10,000 there will be a significantly larger grant to future recipients.

We should invite the student who is chosen by FDTC to receive our scholarship for the spring semester to one of our meetings early next year. That would be a good way to positively present our club to the community.

### DUES For 2008

Remember you can save \$5 by paying your 2008 dues before Jan. 1!

### VE Session

On Wednesday, November 7, the Florence WCARS VE Team held a VE Session at the Red Cross on Lucas Street. We had eight VE's to attend but nobody came to take a test. We were very disappointed but maybe we should advertise the next session for a longer time and on more nets. The next scheduled session will be on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 9:00 AM at the Methodist Manor.

### December Birthdays

- 1 John Kirkland, KF4HJS
- 2 Sam Watson, W4STW
- 4 John Germain, KA3JAL
- 15 Harry Paxton, W8IXZ

### Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4 Christmas Meeting & Election of Officers at N4JJ's  
 Jan 12 Greenwood Hamfest  
 Feb 2 Charleston Hamfest  
 Feb 9 VE Test Session 9AM Methodist Manor

### Members of the Month The Webber Family Oliver WD4CHR Tim WD4CHS

It all started with K4LYU, now a silent key. He was strictly a 40 Meter CW operator and introduced the hobby to his Son-in-Law, Oliver, and his Grandson, Tim. The rest is history.

Both Oliver and Tim grew up in Spartanburg. Oliver went to Wofford College and Tim went to Clemson. They both got their call signs the same day in February 1977 but their radio interests diverged. Oliver is primarily interested in HF, contesting and DX. His proudest Amateur Achievement is

DXCC 250. He holds an Advanced License and is a retired Industrial Engineer formerly with Milliken. He and his wife, JoEllen, moved to Florence to be nearer Tim's family several years ago.

Tim is more interested in VHF and UHF operations. He has competed in numerous VHF DX contests and he enjoys Packet. He also enjoys rag-chewing on all HF frequencies. His proudest Amateur Achievement was getting his Extra License the hard way, with code at 20 WPM. He is a credit to his Grandfather's memory.

Tim's day job is his own Lawn Doctor Franchise. He is certified by the State of S.C. as a Pesticide Applicator. Tim has a radio in his work truck and is heard on all the local frequencies often during the day.

Tim has his Packet station operational 24/7 on both RF and the internet and would like to see it utilized more often. His latest new toy is a UHF Repeater on 441.875 with a PL of 123.0. It is located on the south edge of Florence and is open to all amateurs. Tim would love to have you use it at your convenience.

Tim is looking forward to setting up a tower with a good set of beams to replace the verticals and wires he has been using. Judging from past history, I'll bet that happens in the near future.

Tim's daughter, Anna, is now into running cross-country for King's Academy. Maybe sometime in the future she will make the 4th generation of the Webber family to operate Amateur Radio.

### Christmas Party

Don't forget that the annual Christmas Party will be held at N4JJ's at 1312 Yellowstone Dr. We will have the traditional Deer Meat Spaghetti and Wink's yeast rolls. Please bring a side or dessert.